

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 23, 2005. Claims 1, 3 to 7, 9 to 15, 17 to 19, 21 to 24, 26, 28, 29, 31, 33, 34, 36, 38, 39 and 41 remain in the application, of which Claims 1, 7, 15, 19, 23, 28, 33 and 38 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 15, 17, 19 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,076,106 (Hamner), and Claims 4, 6, 10, 12 to 14, 18, 22 to 24, 26, 28, 29, 31, 33, 34, 36, 38, 39 and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Hamner in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,266,693 (Onaga). The rejections are respectfully traversed and the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in light of the following comments.

The present invention concerns managing device information of network devices. According to one aspect of the invention, a plurality of types of device information is transmitted to a management server by the network devices at different times without waiting for polling for the device information by the management server. For instance, static information may be transmitted when a power-on event occurs, whereas semi-static information and dynamic information may be transmitted in accordance with a change in status of the device at different time intervals. As a result, the device information of network devices can be readily managed by a server.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is a method of processing device information in a network system in which a management server for managing the device information and other devices are connected, comprising a transmitting step of transmitting a plurality of different types of device information to

management server at predetermined timings without waiting for polling for the device information, respectively, wherein the plurality of different types of device information are static information, semi-static information transmitted periodically at a first time interval, and dynamic information transmitted periodically at a second time interval different from the first time interval, and wherein, in the transmitting step, the static information is transmitted to the management server in accordance with an event of a power-on of the device, and the semi-static information and the dynamic information are transmitted to the management server in accordance with a change in status of the device.

Amended independent Claims 7, 15 and 19 are apparatus, recording medium, and computer program claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 7, 15 and 19. More particularly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of network devices transmitting a plurality of different types of device information to a management server at predetermined timings without waiting for polling for the device information, respectively, wherein the plurality of different types of device information are static information transmitted in accordance with an event of a power-on of the device, and semi-static information transmitted periodically at a first time interval, and dynamic information obtained periodically at a second time interval different from the first time interval, both of which are transmitted in accordance with a change in status of the device.

Hamner is merely seen to disclose a management server that gathers information about all devices connected to the network in order to generate a network map. The information is gathered by the server polling the devices, either periodically or in

response to a user command. Once the devices have been discovered by the polling, the management server can perform various tasks on each of the devices. (See column 3, lines 31 to 62, and column 6, lines 3 to 18.) Thus, although the server may discover devices and obtain device information, Applicants fail to see where any of the network devices transmit a plurality of different types of device information to a management server at predetermined timings without waiting for polling for the device information. Accordingly, amended independent Claims 1, 7, 15 and 19 are not believed to be anticipated by Hamner.

Onaga is not seen to disclose or to suggest anything that, when combined with Hamner, would have overcome Hamner's deficiencies or that would have rendered the present invention of Claims 1, 7, 15 and 19 obvious. In this regard, Onaga is merely seen to disclose a multifunction device that determines its operating status and transmits status information to a host, whereby the host transmits the status information to a file server. However, like Hamner, Onaga is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of network devices transmitting a plurality of different types of device information to a management server at predetermined timings without waiting for polling for the device information, respectively, wherein the plurality of different types of device information are static information transmitted in accordance with an event of a power-on of the device, and semi-static information transmitted periodically at a first time interval, and dynamic information obtained periodically at a second time interval different from the first time interval, both of which are transmitted in accordance with a change in status of the device. Accordingly, Claims 1, 7, 15 and 19 also would not have been obvious over a combination of Hamner and Onaga.

In view of the forgoing amendments and remarks, Claims 1, 3 to 7, 9 to 15, 17 to 19, 21 and 22 are believed to be allowable.

In another aspect of the invention, one of the network devices transmits to another one of the devices a request that a plurality of types of device information of the one device be transmitted to the management server. In response, the another device that receives the request transmits the plurality of types of device information of the one device that transmitted the request to the management server. However, the another device also recognizes whether the one device is in a properly operating status, and if the one device is not in the properly operating status, transmits a delete request to the management server that the device information of the one device registered in the management server be deleted. Thus, if one device on the network is unable to transmit its own device information to the management server, a substitute-device can transmit the information instead so that the device information is updated/deleted in the server.

Referring specifically to the claims, independent Claim 23 is a method of processing device information in a network system in which a management server for managing device information and other devices are connected, comprising a request transmitting step of transmitting, from one of the devices to another one of the devices, a request that a plurality of types of device information of the one device that transmitted the request be transmitted from the another device to the management server, a receiving step of receiving by the another device the request transmitted by the one device in the request transmitting step, a device information transmitting step of transmitting, from the another device to the management server, the plurality of types of device information of the one device that transmitted the request in accordance with the received request, a recognizing step of recognizing by the another device whether the one device is in a properly operating

status, and a delete request transmitting step of transmitting from the another device to the management server, a delete request that the device information of the one device registered in the management server be deleted, if it is recognized in the recognizing step that the one device is not in the properly operating status.

Amended independent Claims 28, 33 and 38 are apparatus, computer program, and recording medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 23.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of amended independent Claims 23, 28, 33 and 38, and in particular is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of, one device that receives a request to transmit device information of another device to a management server recognizing whether the one device that transmitted the request is in a properly operating status, and then transmitting to the management server a delete request that the device information of the one device registered in the management server be deleted if it is recognized that the one device is not in the properly operating status.

The Office Action more or less concedes that Hamner fails to disclose such a delete request, but cites Onaga as allegedly disclosing the claimed delete request transmitting step. (citing Onaga's feature of checking/monitoring status information). However, Applicants fail to see any connection between monitoring/checking status information and updating settings as allegedly disclosed by Onaga with the claimed invention's feature of, one device that receives a request to transmit device information of another device to a management server recognizing whether the one device that transmitted the request is in a properly operating status, and then transmitting to the management server a delete request that the device information of the one device registered in the

management server be deleted if it is recognized that the one device is not in the properly operating status. Thus, amended independent Claims 23, 28, 33 and 38, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable over the applied art.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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